

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action of March 11, 2004 closing prosecution on the merits, Applicants amend their application in response to the requirements of the Examiner.

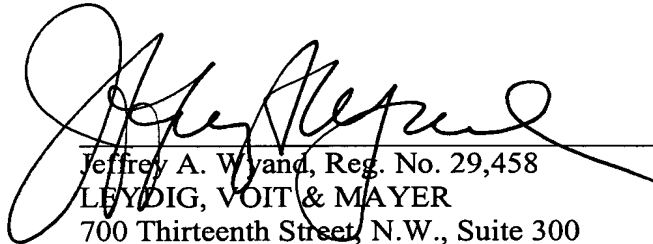
Claims 1-20 are pending in this patent application and those claims are allowed.

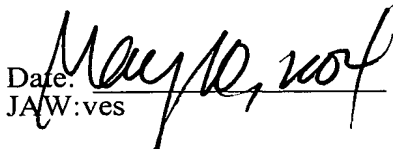
There were four objections to the specification and appropriate amendments are made. In the Examiner's repeated demand with regard to a word allegedly appearing at page 9, line 19 cannot be directly responded to, at least not at that location. As pointed out in the previous response, the word "sizes" does not appear at that location in the specification. Only through a computer search of the specification was the word "sizes" located at page 10, line 23. An appropriate amendment has been made within the specification at the only location where the word mentioned by the Examiner appears.

In response to the comments regarding the drawing figures, after consulting the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office "Guide for the Preparation of Patent Drawings", appropriate changes are made in the indicated sectionings in Figures 4, 7, and 9. The requested indication of dielectric material through hatching lines is added to Figures 8 and 10, appropriate hatching lines are employed in Figure 5 to indicate the metal rods 32, and the error inadvertently introduced into Figure 5 in preparing the replacement drawings is corrected.

The foregoing response places the application in form for allowance. A Notice of Allowance should now be mailed.

Respectfully submitted,


Jeffrey A. Wyand, Reg. No. 29,458
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER
700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005-3960
(202) 737-6770 (telephone)
(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: 
JAW:ves